

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS)

SCOPE

Conditions for packaging alcoholic beverages (beer, fermented beverages, intermediate products and other alcoholic beverages) for retail sale.

LATVIAN REGULATIONS

[Handling of Alcoholic Beverages Law](#), which provides for conditions for the packaging unit of alcoholic beverages in retail sale.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Retail sale of alcoholic beverages requires a special permit (license) in accordance with the provisions of Article 2, Part 6, Clause 5 of the Law "[On Excise Tax](#)", Article 3, Part 1 of [Handling of Alcoholic Beverages Law](#) and Cabinet Regulation No. 662 of 30 August 2005 "[Procedures for Circulation of Excise Goods](#)" in Subsection 11.5.

In accordance with Article 6, Point One, Subpoint 5 of the Law on the Circulation of Alcoholic Beverages, the retail sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited from Monday to Saturday before 10:00 and after 20:00, and on Sundays before 10:00 and after 18:00. This restriction does not apply to retail outlets where alcoholic beverages are sold exclusively on tap for on-site consumption, as well as to duty-free shops.

In accordance with Article 6.¹, Point Six of the same law, alcoholic beverages purchased via a website or mobile application may be delivered (or handed over) to the buyer no earlier than six hours after the order has been placed, and only from a point of sale specified in the special permit (license) for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages. It is prohibited to deliver (or hand over) alcoholic beverages purchased online from Monday to Saturday between 20:00 and 10:00, and on Sundays between 18:00 and 10:00.

Merchants who, as of July 31, 2025, hold special permits (licenses) for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages with working hours falling outside the new restrictions (i.e., before 10:00 and after 20:00 on weekdays, and before 10:00 and after 18:00 on Sundays), must submit an application to the State Revenue Service for the re-registration of the license by December 31, 2025. In such cases, merchants are exempt from the state fee for the re-registration of the special permit (license).

Merchants who, by July 31, 2025, hold a special permit (license) for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages or beer, where the approved working hours exceed the limits set by this law (i.e., the point of sale allows takeaway alcoholic beverage sales—excluding duty-free shops—and the declared working hours include Monday to Saturday before 10:00 and after 20:00, or Sundays before 10:00 and after 18:00), must also submit an application to the State Revenue Service for the re-registration of the relevant license by December 31, 2025. In such cases, the merchant is likewise exempt from the state fee for the re-registration of the special permit (license).

CONTACTS

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MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR ECONOMIC OPERATORS

According to Article 6(13) and (14) of the Law on Circulation of Alcoholic Beverages:

It is prohibited to sell beer, fermented beverages, intermediate products and other alcoholic beverages in packaging units the volume of which exceeds:

- 1) 0.5 liters, if the absolute alcohol content of the aforementioned alcoholic beverages exceeds 5.8% by volume;
- 2) 1 liter, if the absolute alcohol content of the aforementioned alcoholic beverages does not exceed 5.8% by volume.

The aforementioned packaging volume restrictions do not apply to the sale of alcoholic beverages if:

- 1) the packaging unit is made of glass, ceramics, wood, metal or complex packaging consisting of a polymer or laminate bag packed in a cardboard box;
 - 2) beer, fermented beverages, intermediate products and other alcoholic beverages are sold at their place of production or at the manufacturer's structural unit.
- 1) Alcoholic beverages in retail trade may be prepackaged in accordance with the conditions set out in Cabinet Regulation No. 383 of 2 June 2008 "On Standard Values for the Nominal Quantity and Nominal Volume of Prepackaged Goods".